

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 H-02 INR-05 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-03 /055 W

----- 041186

R 231156Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6789

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 3166

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IX, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI OFFICIAL ON CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS

1. WE HAD OPPORTUNITY MAY 21 TO GET READING ON ISRAELI
THINKING ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST FROM
MFA'S ME DEPT HEAD, YAEL VERED.

2. SOVIET ROLE- VERED' REACTION TO REPORTS FROM
VIENNA THAT SOVIETS HAD AGREED NOT TO STAND IN WAY OF
FURTHER EFFORT TO WORK OUT INTERIM SETTLEMENT BETWEEN
ISREL AD EGYPT WAS THAT IT SHOWED SOVIETS WER NOT
FEELING UNDER PRESSURE IN PURSUIT OF THEIR BASIC ME
OBJECTIVES, I.E. EXTENDING THER INFLUENCE WHILE
PROGRESSIVELY LIMITING THAT OF THE US. WHILE DISTRUST-
FUL OF SOVIET MOTIVES,VERED BELIEVED THAT RESULTS
OF SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO WOULD RELIEVE
PRESSURE IN REGION(THIS WAS BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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SYRIAN UNDOF RENEWAL) AND DANGE OF WAR.

3. SYRIA-IRAQ- VERED'S ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT
TENSIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE THAT THEY REPRESENT

A DELIBERATE MOVE ON SYRIA'S PART TO, 1) FORCEFULLY REMIND IRAQ THAT SYRIA WILL NOT TOLERATE FURTHER IRAQI INTERFERENCE IN SYRIA'S INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND 2) EXPRESS GENUINE UNHAPPINESS WITH EXISTING WATER CONTROL AGREEMENT. VERED COMMENTED THAT SHE HAD BEEN EXPECTING SOME SUCH SYRIAN MOVE EVER SINCE THE 1973 WAR, THOUGH SHE HAD THOUGHT IT WOULD COME EARLIER. IT WAS INEVITABLE, SHE SAID THAT THE "EGGS" FERTILIZED BY THE IRAQIS DURING THEIR PROTRACTED STAY IN SYRIA DURING AND FOLLOWING THE YOM KIPPUR WAR WOULD ULTIMATELY "HATCH". SYRIA, SHE THOUGHT, WAS GIVING IRAQ A VERY CLEAR WARNING THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED AGAIN. FOR THE REST, SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ONE SHOULD ATTACH TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE MOVEMENT OF SYRIAN ARMED FORCES TO THE AREA. SHE THOUGHT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF HOSTILITIES OF ANY KIND, BUT THAT THE SYRIANS, KNOWING HOW IRRATIONAL THE IRAQIS COULD BE (SHE SAID) WERE TAKING OUT SOME MILITARY INSURANCE.

4. SYRIA-JORDAN-REVIEWING GROUND COVERED BY CHARGE
IN RECENT MEETING WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON,
WE NOTED THAT REPORTS FROM DAMASCUS
TENDED TO CONFIRM VIEW THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS
THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN HAD CONCLUDED MILITARY COOPERATION
AGREEMENTS. WE
AGAIN REVIEWED REASONING CONTAINED IN EMBASSY AMMAN'S
MESSAGE AS TO WHY JORDANIANS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO
ENTER INTO ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT. VERED'S REACTION TO
THIS WAS AS FOLLOWS: IT MIGHT BE TRUE THAT NO FORMAL
AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA.
HOWEVER, HUSSEIN WAS BASICALLY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING
HIS SYRIAN CONNECTIONS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO GET BACK
INTO THE NEGOTIATING AREA AGAIN AND SYRIANS COULD
INFLUENCE PLO. WHETHER OR NOT HUSSEIN HAD ACTUALLY
CONCLUDED ANY AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA IT WAS SIGNIFICANT
THAT WEST BANKERS AND HIS OWN PEOPLE IN JORDAN THOUGHT HE
HAD. SO DID JORDANIAN ARMY, SHE SAID. THIS BEING TRUE,
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HUSSEIN HAD A FORM OF COMMITMENT TO SYRIAN WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD INTENDED TO. NEXT, SHE SAID, ONE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECENT JORDANIAN TROOP REALIGNMENT.
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY COULD BE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, JORDAN DID NOT EXPECT ISRAEL TO ATTACK HER IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AFTER ALL, THEY NEVERtheless PUT JORDAN IN A POSITION TO ASSIST EGYPT AND SYRIA MILITARILY IN EVENT OF OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. IN FACT, VERED SAID SHE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT JORDANIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS MEANT THAT JORDAN WAS NOW COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATING IN PLANNING OF ANY FUTURE COMBINED ARAB OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO SITUATION BEFORE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR.

5. LEBANON- VERED SIAD GOI IS WORRIED ABOUT CURRENT LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED VERY GRAVE. A PLO VICTORY OF SOME KIND COULD INTRODUCE A DANGEROUS INSTABILITY INTO AREA. ISRAELIS BELIEVED THAT SYRIA COULD EASILY BRINGSITUATION UNDER CONTRL BY MAKING THEIR DESIRES CLEAR TO THOSE PLO ELEMENTS WHICH RELY ON SYRIA'S SUPPORT.

6. PLO- VERED SAID SHE SHARED ASSESSMENT OF MANY OBSERVERS THAT RECENT ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS NOT FULL SUCCESS FOR EITHER PARTY. SHE BELIEVES PLO HAS DECIDED AGAINST ANY CHANGES IN " RECOGNITION" POLICY AND IS THEREFORE PREPARED TO PLAY NO ROLE AT GENEVA.

7. COMMENTNG ON RECENT INCREASE IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS VERED SAID THAT PLO HAD NOT IMPROVED ITS POSITIONIN WEST BANK IN RECENT MONTHS. MONITORING OF PLO BROADCASTS AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE HAD SHOWN THAT PLO HAD BEEN DETERMINED TO TRY TO SHOW UPSWING IN ANTI-SIRAEI ACTION AT TIME OF (MAY 15) SECULAR ANNIVERSARY USED ALL MEANS AT THEIR DIPSPOSAL, INCLUDING INADEQATELY TRAINED YOUNG PEOPLE. RESULT HAD NOT IMPRESSEDISRAELIS, BUT HAD PERMITTED THEM TO ROUND UP A FAIR NUMBER OF TROUBLE MAKERS. VERED SHOWED NO SPECIAL CONCERN ABOUT GOI'S CONTINUED ABILITY TO HANDLE ANY PROBLEMS PLO MIGHT ATTEMPT TO CREASTON WEST BANK. SHE DID NOT BELIEVE PLO COULD SUSTAIN AN ACTIVE PROGRAM.

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VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV03166
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750182-1040
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaaesj.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, PLO, (VERED, VAE)
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
AMEMBSSY BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
JERUSALEM
AMEMBSSY MOSCOW

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006